



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



April, 2022

New FCC Application Fee Will Not Apply to Amateur Radio License Upgrades

QST de W1AW - ARRL Bulletin 11 ARLB011
From ARRL Headquarters - Newington CT
April 5, 2022 - To all radio amateurs

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

ARRL previously reported that the new \$35 application fee for amateur radio licenses will become effective on April 19, 2022. Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC page at, <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee> .

How to get YOUR news/events into the *Georgia on My Mind* Newsletter



Hello fellow hams, I hope you are enjoying the new "Georgia on My Mind" layout and content.

My name is Karen, K4LJS - I was recruited in September to take over the editor responsibilities for this newsletter and have enjoyed learning about the goings-on of ham radio around our wonderful state.

Since then, I have attempted to create a comprehensive list of clubs, as well as a contact person for each club, hoping to elicit articles, pictures and events for publication. However, I'm sure that my list is not 100% complete, and I still receive many "email not delivered" notices each month. So...

If you are a member of a club, PLEASE send me an email at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com and include your club name, location, callsign, PIO or contact person, and most importantly, a valid email address!!

Before you ask, no, you do not have to be a member of a club to submit articles to this publication. Every ham has a different area of interest and achieves glory in their own way. Are you young? Old? New? Experienced? Run digital? Use antique equipment? Climb mountains? Stick antennas in the sand? If you do something that could make others say, "hmmm..." send me a note, and especially a picture!

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The Georgia Death Race

Imagine, if you will... Running through the North Georgia mountains. You've been awake since before 1:30am and are starting your run in the dark, at 5:30am, knowing that you have 25 hours to complete 72 miles, with 16,000 feet of ascent, and 16,000 feet of descent ahead of you. Ultimately, only 60% of racers ever complete this ultra-marathon.

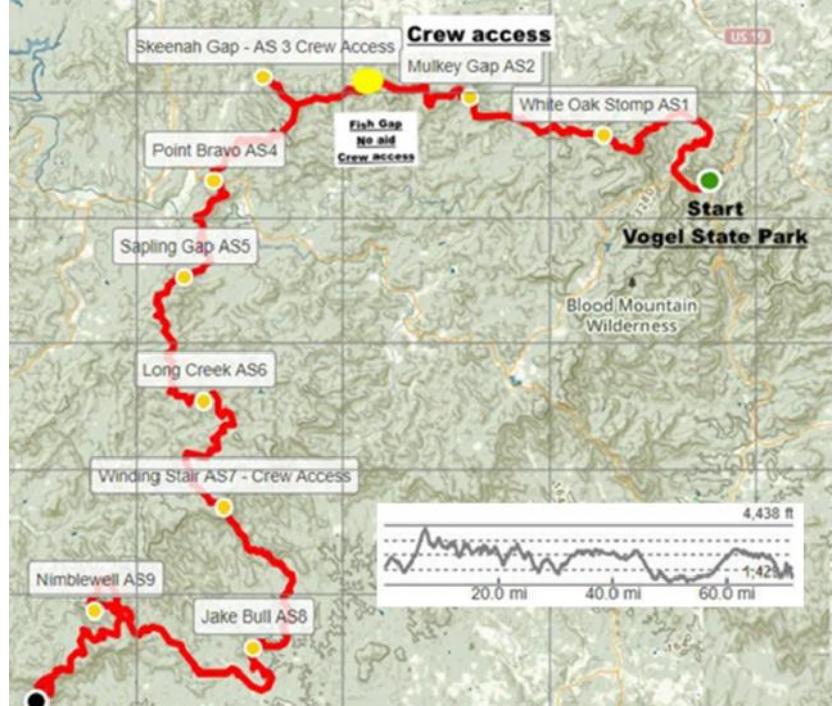
For safety reasons the National Forest Service requires that ham radio stations be setup along this course, to track racers (via Winlink Packet) and call in help when needed. Each year, Incident Commander Frank Dean, K4SJR, coordinates 10 different locations, each manned by a separate group/club, who provide multiple radio operators for 3-24 hours shifts. This year, "injects" included 30mph winds, 27 degree temperatures, & fires.

Still, the radio clubs of North Georgia pulled together and passed the traffic necessary for a successful race. The race organizer had some nice things to say about us, at about the one minute mark. <https://fb.watch/c5yEy9Rm9x/>

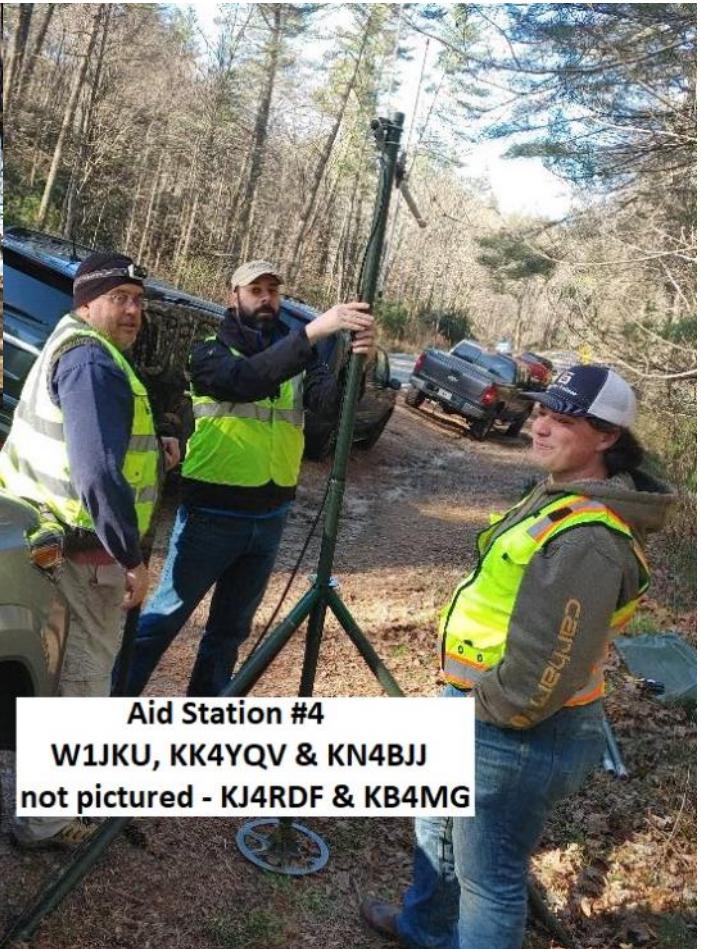
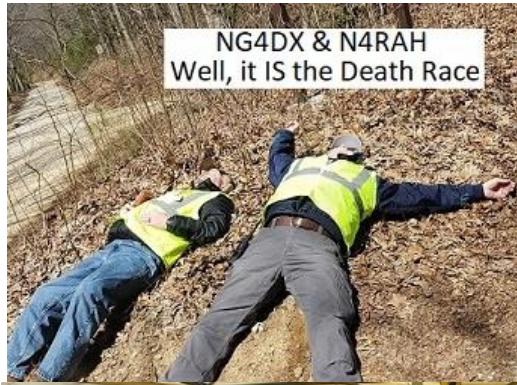
Many thanks to all that worked this race. Below are the counties that participated:



Beg. Gwinnett, Union
& Pickens Counties
AS#1 - Whitfield &
Pickens Counties
AS#2 - Union County
AS#3 - Pickens & Bartow Co.
AS#4 - Cherokee County
AS#5 - Fannin County
AS#6 - Gwinnett, Forsyth
& Jackson Counties
AS#7 - Pickens County
AS#8 - Lumpkin County
AS#9 - Cherokee County
AS#10 - Gilmer County



The Georgia Death Race - page 2



Aid Station 9, Nimblewill Gap - KJ4UC



Happenings - past

Antenna Party at Gwinnett Newton Rockdale Public Health Department

As part of our local commitment to served agencies in Gwinnett County, our ARES team serves the Gwinnett Newton Rockdale (GNR) Public Health Department headquarters. On a monthly basis we perform radio station checks and other needed maintenance. Our objective, to ensure the station is ready if called on in support of emergency communications.

This month (March 3rd) three volunteers from Gwinnett ARES formed an antenna party. There was some question about the existing Yaesu YA-30 HF folded dipole's performance. The decision was made to swap the HF antenna out for another YA-30 and while doing so replace the over seven-year-old guideline cord.

In coordination with the GNR facilities director, Larry Whited (AB4NX) and Dallas Mellichamp (N4DDM), wearing appropriate safety gear, formed the roof-top team. Mark Bell (N7GRB) provided ground support (gopher) and radio test operator. While on the roof Larry and Dallas observed deteriorated coax with exposed shielding leading to a pair of high frequency Yagi antennas. While these antennas are not associated with the amateur radios, the team took pictures for a subsequent report to the facilities director.

While the GNR radio station is in a small space, it is strategically attached to the GNR District Operations Center (DOC). One can literally turn around at the operator's position and pass or receive message traffic through the room door with the incident command staff. The station is well equipped with an ICOM IC-7300 HF radio, ICOM ID-5100 dual band DSTAR radio, Yaesu FT-8800 dual band with attached Kantronics KPC3+ TNC and lastly a dedicated PC with printer. The entire setup is on an AC circuit backed by a generator.



Mark T. Bell,
N7GRB
AEC Public Health
Gwinnett Co. ARES
Georgia Section
Technical Specialist

We had nearly 800 hams participate in last week's Winlink Thursday. See map at https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=11GX2-vWE4V_W1NVvKzmeq6GI7Mhd2CZ&ll=33.97606743279916%2C-84.43642347158521&z=12.

If you don't see your call on there, go to https://www.emcomm-training.org/Winlink_Thursdays.html to join in!



NG3DX operating during the Georgia QSO Party

In recognition of WSB's 100th anniversary, March 15, 1922, the following Telegram provides the FCC's initial, official license to operate.



Happenings - future

New Video on Georgia ARES YouTube Channel The Importance of Ham Radio in Disasters by Craig Fugate, FEMA Director

The Importance of Ham Radio in Disasters, a video recorded for Coastal Plans Amateur Radio Club has been posted on Georgia ARES Training YouTube channel. Craig Fugate former FEMA Administrator is the featured speaker. His distinguished career serving through multiple hurricanes qualifies him to weigh in on this subject.

Thanks to Greg Walls, W4GHW for offering it, and many thanks to Mark Bell, N7GRB for editing and posting it!

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutube.com%2Fplaylist%3Flist%3DPLVwzFAXWo0n1Gv4bBxkYpa0VTp-BOvyuOl&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cdec750d9aecf47007c2508da1a757fc8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637851389201249053%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=jyKK3otVXgrX1uwIKRBduQSOW5IFKvU5RqyZjSA64pY%3D&reserved=0>

POTA – On Thursday 03/17/22 AG4JO Gil and K4DDE Kelley enjoyed another POTA activation @ Carter's Lake WMA K-7899 with more than 150 contacts between them, from France to Alaska and all parts in between.

Congratulations to AG4JO Gil for a record FT8 activation If you haven't tried parks on the air activation you're sure missing a good time not to mention the fresh air and low noise levels at most parks. Please feel free to join us anytime.



25th Annual Calhoun, Georgia
HAMFEST
2022 April 23
8AM - 2PM



ADMISSION: \$5 includes FREE parking and FREE tailgating



The Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society
is pleased to sponsor our annual HAMFEST
Browse the vendors. Sell unneeded gear for extra cash!
Find that perfect addition for your rig.

VE TESTING—11am
Technician, General, & Extra
Please bring ID & FRN. Must have valid email
Testing Fee: \$15

Due to potential Covid guideline changes, please watch our website for more information.

ADDRESS
Hill City Baptist Church
1411 Hill City Rd NW
Resaca, GA.

DIRECTIONS
From I-75 Southbound:
Take Exit 326 (Carbondale Rd).
Turn right and travel 4 miles to the site on the left

TALK-IN
443.675 + PL 100
146.685 - PL 167.5
146.745 - PL 100

From I-75 Northbound:
Take Exit 320 (Resaca), Turn Left
Travel 3.7 miles to Coal Rd.
Turn right onto Coal Rd.
Travel 0.7 miles to the site on the right.

CONTACT Felton Floyd, AF4DN / af4dn@arrl.net / 770-324-9859 / K4WOC.com

Forsyth, GA Ham Tail Gate / Swap Meet

The second annual Forsyth, GA Ham Tail Gate / Swap Meet will be held on Saturday May 21, 2022.

This event will be held in Forsyth, Georgia at the Monroe County Recreational Complex at 100 Dan Pitts Drive, which is just off of I-75 exit 188, across the interstate from the GPSTC training center.

The event will run from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm with the park opening up at 8:00 am. Some Food/Drinks will be available for purchase. This is a very nice complex with plenty of parking for all attendees. No alcohol or pets are permitted in the complex. Please bring your own tables if necessary. Electricity will be available at the adjacent Pavilions #3 & #4 for any testing of equipment, with limitations.

This information is on the www.barnesvillega.net website with a map of the complex. Talk-in will be on the Barnesville repeater, 147.225, no tone.

Round up your treasures and attend this event!

I can be reached at N5FBI@ARRL.NET or cell phone at 770-358-2789.

Up, Up and Away - Youth Go Higher!

Audrey (AM4BUN) McElroy's high school STEM Capstone project was to test the effects of high altitude and cosmic radiation on microscopic roundworms sourced from the University of Minnesota.

Studying the atmospheric conditions for weeks in advance, Audrey decided that the best odds for recovering a payload from 100,000 feet is to land in an area with flat farmland. That required her to launch from Butler, Georgia in order to touch-down somewhere near Statesboro, Georgia.

The payload included a camera, a 2 meter APRS beacon, a petri dish contained in a heated biology lab, two 70cm CW beacons, a flight data recorder that logged barometric pressure, altitude and temperature, and a loud audio beeper.

The 600 gram balloon was inflated to a precise lift value optimized for proper rate of ascent and rapidly burst above 100,000 feet. Upon bursting, and falling, a parachute took form when the air was thick enough to ensure a gentle landing.

The launch occurred on 26 March 2022 at first light in a perfect HAB launching field in Butler. Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, set up parts of the payload and controlled the rate of inflation at the helium tank. As soon as we received APRS packets from 2000 feet, we took chase! Jack had two HT's in the minivan listening for the 16 milliwatt 70cm beacons, and they were LOUD from high altitude!

Jack opted to stay in the background for his big sister's launch, but he is an expert in his own right. Jack will be giving two presentations on High Altitude Balloons (HAB) at the Dayton Hamvention. One presentation

is with Bill Brown WB4ELK on Friday, and the second will be for



Carole Perry WB2MGP at the Youth Forum on Saturday morning. Jack is 14, and has been presenting to large audiences since he was 11.

Amazingly, the balloon decided to take Interstate 16 towards Statesboro. So we did too! We were East-bound and down, as Jack monitored the UHF beacons, and Audrey was watching the APRS data. She alerted us that the burst had occurred at 100,600 feet. The landing zone was a peanut processing plant outside of Statesboro.

We parked on the side of the road, and Audrey ran into the woods, used her directional-finding skills, got close, and when she heard the audio beacon, she walked right up to the whole system, found perfectly intact. She downloaded the flight data, and was processing it as we drove to Chick-fil-A.

Once we got back home, she put the petri dish under her microscope and found that not only did the roundworms survive but they actually got a little fatter after going up in the low air pressure found 19 miles high!

With a 4.2+ GPA and completing four terms of Calculus as a high school girl, Audrey was recently accepted at Georgia Tech as an Electrical Engineering student.

The proud parents are, Tom, W4SDR & Janet, K4PRM McElroy. To see a video of the process, <https://photos.app.goo.gl/92QJn5KmiG3kSFXo9>



Radio Club News

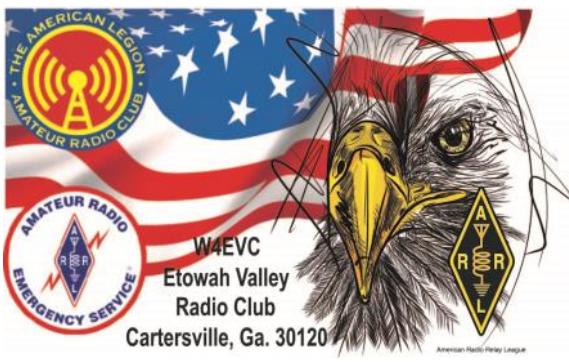
Etowah Valley Amateur Radio Club

At our March meeting held 03/28/2022 we were entertained by David Ross KK4NTC with a program on Fox Hunting. David presented a Baofeng radio fitted with a direction finding antenna and a "Fox" inside an ammo can using an arduino fitted to a Baofeng Radio for transmission. David presented several different configurations of antenna including home brew, inexpensive store bought and kit antennas.

We tried an experiment to find the fox outside but due to technical difficulties were unsuccessful. The issues were identified so we know where we went wrong. This we call a learning experience. We learned what and how to build a fox kit, now we just need to do it and practice.

A big thank you goes to David for his presentation to the club and commitment to amateur radio.

There were several items donated to the club of used equipment, antennas and such. We had a raffle and several members took home antennas and coax. I don't think you can have too much of either. How many antennas do you really need?? Just one more!



The club approved the design of a logo. I believe it is the first logo the club has had. We just need to add a vanity call sign for our new American Legion Radio Club affiliation and it will be complete. The call sign has been applied for and should be coming shortly.



West Georgia Amateur Society held a two-stage fox hunt in March. Marshall KK4OHF and his wife Sandy outdid themselves hiding the foxes. The more powerful of the two was over 10 miles from our starting point in Carrollton.

The first fox was hidden high atop a ridge at the Villa Rica Gold Museum. You will have to check out one of the photos and see if you can find the second. The second fox was a micro fox with very low output and hidden in a diabolical spot.

Fox Hunting equipment ranged from doppler units to Yagi's to home brew devices. The dopplers, once able to hear the first fox, really showed their worth. When it came time for boots on the ground, that's when the operators' skills came into play. KV4TE, Jason was the first at the fox and around a dozen hunters followed.

Many thanks to KK4OHF and his xyl for terrific creativity. Also, hats off to all the hunters. People joined us from many of the surrounding counties and from as far west as Heflin, AL.

The WGARS will be holding many more of these through the warmer months. I hope you will come join in on the fun.



Awards

Columbus Amateur Radio Club

At our March meeting we presented one of our members with the "Outstanding Operator" award from the Parks On The Air program as well as the ARRL "Elmer Award".

Steve Whittington, AD4XT, producer of the YouTube channel "Ham Radio Portable" is one of our more active club members. Both locally and through his YouTube endeavors, Steve has mentored many people, and is particularly active in the realm of portable operations. The ARRL "Elmer Award" stands on its own as a token of appreciation and achievement.

The POTA "Outstanding Operator" award requires a nomination essay and review/approval by the head of the POTA program before it can be awarded. Needless to say, we're proud to have Steve as part of our club!



ARES Report

1952 Training exercises
54 Public Service Events
6 Emergency Operations
63 Skywarn Operations
Total Hours = 10,775.1

